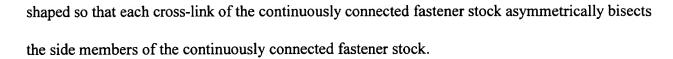
## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of fabricating continuously connected fastener stock, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a rotating molding wheel, said rotating molding wheel being provided with a peripheral impression comprising a pair of peripherally-extending side members interconnected by a plurality of cross-links;
- (b) extruding molten plastic into the peripheral impression of said rotating molding wheel, with a layer of controlled film overlying the peripheral impression;
  - (c) allowing the molten plastic to solidify;
- (d) using a knife in substantially elliptical contact with the peripheral impression to skive excess plastic from the rotating molding wheel, said knife having a bottom provided with a first cut-out portion aligned with one of said peripherally-extending side members so as to augment the transverse cross-sectional size thereof; and
- (e) removing the continuously connected fastener stock thus formed from the rotating molding wheel.
- 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said peripheral impression is formed around the entire periphery of said rotating molding wheel.
- 3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said bottom of said knife is further provided with a second cut-out portion aligned with the other of said peripherally-extending side members so as to augment the transverse cross-sectional size thereof.
- 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally uniform and semi-elliptical in transverse cross-

section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.

- 5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is complementarily shaped relative to its respective peripherally-extending side member of said peripheral impression so that each cross-link of the continuously connected fastener stock symmetrically bisects the side members of the continuously connected fastener stock.
- 6. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.
- 7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is complementarily shaped relative to its respective peripherally-extending side member of said peripheral impression so that each cross-link of the continuously connected fastener stock symmetrically bisects the side members of the continuously connected fastener stock.
- 8. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section and wherein each of said cross-links of said peripheral impression is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.
- 9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions is generally semi-circular in cross-section.
- 10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein each of said first and second cut-out portions and each of said peripherally-extending side members of said peripheral impression are sized and



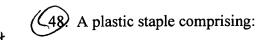
11. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 1.

- 12. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 4.
- 13. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 5.
- 14. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 6.
- 15. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 7.
- 16. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim §.
- 17. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 9.
- 18. A length of continuously connected fastener stock fabricated according to the method of claim 10.
  - (19) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:
- (a) first and second side members; and
- (b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said cross-links having a flat surface and an arcuate surface;

- (c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.
- 20. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally elliptical in transverse cross-section.
- 21. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 20 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.
- 22. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 21 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.
- 23. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 22 wherein said second side member is generally elliptical in transverse cross-section.
- 24. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 23 wherein said first and second side members are substantially identical in size and shape.
- 25. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 20 wherein each of said cross-links symmetrically bisects said first side member transversely.
- 26. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section.
- 27. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 26 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.
- 28. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 27 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.
- 29. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 28 wherein said second side member is generally rectangular in transverse cross-section.

- 30. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.
- 31. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.
- 32. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.
- 33. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 30 wherein each of said cross-links is generally semi-circular in transverse cross-section.
- 34. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 33 wherein said second side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface.
- 35. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 34 wherein said second side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.
- 36. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 35 wherein said first and second side members are substantially identical in size and shape.
- 37. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 36 wherein each of said cross-links asymmetrically bisects said first side member transversely.
  - (38.) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:
    - (a) first and second side members; and
- (b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said cross-links having a flat surface;
- (c) wherein said first side member is shaped to extend transversely beyond said flat surface with an arcuate surface.

- 39. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 38 wherein said first side member is generally elliptically shaped in transverse cross-section.
- 40. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 39 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped in transverse cross-section.
- 41. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 40 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.
- 42. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 41 wherein said first side member is generally circularly shaped with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.
  - (43) A length of continuously connected fastener stock comprising:
    - (a) first and second side members; and
- (b) a plurality of cross-links interconnecting said first and second side members, each of said plurality of cross-links asymmetrically bisecting said first and second side members.
- 44. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 43 wherein said first side member is generally circular in transverse cross-section.
- 45. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 44 wherein said first side member is generally circular with at least one flattened surface in transverse cross-section.
- 46. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 45 wherein said first side member is generally circular with a pair of flattened surfaces in transverse cross-section.
- 47. The length of continuously connected fastener stock as claimed in claim 44 wherein each of said cross-links lies flush on one side with said first and second side members.



- (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
- (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) at least one of said cross-bars having a length of about 0.18 inches.
- 49. The plastic staple as claimed in claim 48 wherein each of said cross-bars is generally circular in transverse cross-section and wherein said cross-link has a flat side and an arcuate side.
- 50. The plastic staple as claimed in claim 49 wherein said cross-link asymmetrically bisects said pair\_of cross-bars.

## A plastic staple comprising:

- (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
- (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) said cross-bars being circular in cross-section and having a cross sectional diameter of about 0.032 inches.
  - (52.) A plastic staple comprising:
    - (a) a pair of cross-bars, and
    - (b) a cross-link interconnecting said cross-bars,
- (c) said cross-bars being generally circular in cross-section and said cross-link having a flat side and an arcuate side.

A needle for use in dispensing plastic fasteners comprising a stem having a cross-sectional thickness of about 0.013-0 inches and a base having an inside diameter of about 0.032 inches.